

Marie Dressler, the grand old lady of the screen, is to take a long holiday

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SAM KATZ RESIGNS



ALTHOUGH The Digest and The Spotlight have on occasion referred to Sam Katz in satirical vein, nevertheless we concede that

Katz knows Show Business, his association with the Balabans, one Balaban in particular, would have helped him to acquire an excellent Show Business education. Therefore, we observe that his resignation from Paramount-Publix will not prove beneficial to the company.

John Hertz, chairman of the finance committee of Paramount-Publix, made the following statement in respect to the Katz resignation, "John Hertz, chairman of the finance committee of Paramount-Publix, announces the resignation of Sam Katz as vice-president of Paramount-Publix." Mr. Katz is also president of the Publix theatres.

When Paramount was desperately in need of money, because of various obligations, including that paramount one which involved an obligation to redeem its own stock at \$75.00, \$80.00 and \$85.00 a share, with the market around \$6.00 and a loss of approximately sixteen millions on the commitments looming prominently, Mr. Katz brought in John Hertz, Albert Lasker and William Wrigley, Sr. It appeared that this finance saved Paramount at a period when it was very necessary for saviours to appear on the scene. No wonder Mr. Zukor made a public statement, "God gave us Mr. Hertz". Of course we wondered at the time why Mr. Zukor found it necessary to bring God into the Paramount-Publix organization; and if Mr. Zukor had not overlooked Mr. Katz in the matter.

Rumours in connection with Paramount-Publix have not been "so good", yet it may be that the present situation has developed because there is some surplus "dough" to divide up. It might be possible that when Mr. Katz brought the Chicago finance into the organization he made arrangements that a little "dough" should find its way into his "grouch bag". We have

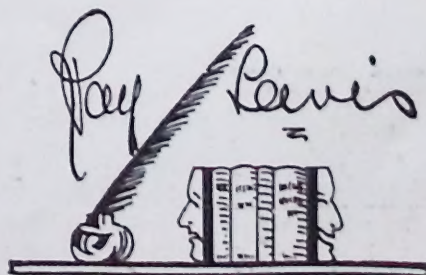
observed that this is not an unusual procedure in business. Most promoters of finance and ideas which are convertible into finance, get a slice of the "melon", when it is ripe for cutting. When we say that this happens to "most promoters", we are referring to those whose main idea and business ability is directed and centralized upon, "getting the dough".

We should imagine, without much of a strain upon our imaginative faculties, that Katz is not a business philanthropist by way of handing out ideas, or bringing in finance, that humanity by way of the Paramount-Publix, and Financial Magnates, may be benefited, while he basks in the resplendent glory of the halo which their glittering pile creates.

Important executives also resign when there is no "dough" and the "game" is not worth burning the candle at both ends. Important executives also resign when they are all "set" for a bigger "killing". Mr. Sam Katz is not out of Show Business.

H. B. FRANKLIN TALKS

MR. H. B. FRANKLIN always talks well, and appears always to know what he is talking about. In the R.K.O. "Now" bulletin, Mr. Franklin brings to our attention that Motion Pictures has successfully, perhaps phenomenally faced the Financial Crisis which has wrecked Monarchies, Governments and the self-satisfied Economic system. Not that Mr. Franklin couches his message just as we have presented it, but that is our interpretation. What he definitely states is that Quality and not Quantity should be the motivating force behind production to-day, and that considering conditions generally, Motion Pictures has not reduced its production schedules in ratio to the reduction in picture attendance.



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RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE "Parliament", a B. & F. house, in Toronto, is nearly giving away its theatre to secure patronage. Last week in passing this theatre, we noted that there was a presentation of three feature pictures, Kay Francis in "Street of Women", which recently played Shea's Hippodrome; and which is incidentally a first-rate feature, Buster Keaton in "Speak Easily", which was presented recently at Loew's, Toronto, and a revival of Bebe Daniels in "Dixiana". A comedy and vaudeville completed the bill, not overlooking the "dresserware" gifts and all for the princely admission of 25 cents. The advertisement announced "Big Show from 7 to 11".

If this is Show Business than we should go into the business of selling apples, for it looks like "a pain in the neck" to us.

Double Features is in itself no bonus to Show Business, but three features is just about "the limit"; and brings us back to the gasping days of Show Business, just previous to that period when our Dumb Dora found her voice. You, who are still in Show Business, will recall the lavish presentations, augmented orchestras, prologues, novelties, etc., etc., which exhibitors produced in order to stimulate the satiated appetite of a jaded public; and incidentally these were the days that made Roxy and a few other Exhibitors take an important place in Show Business as the president of a producing company. If Twin Features are an abomination in the sight of Show Business, than what about triplets?

"SMILIN' THROUGH", that most charming M-G-M feature, which recently closed a two weeks' engagement at Loew's, Toronto, has been the topic of conversation throughout Canada, not only among Norma Shearer's followers, and the army of fans who follow the Leo Banner, but in Women's Clubs. A report comes through to The Digest that Women's Clubs, throughout Canada are sending out notices to their members and friends not to miss seeing "Smilin' Through", as it is one of the pictures which no one should miss. We heartily agree with this idea as "Smilin' Through" in picture value can be said to be worth its weight in gold.

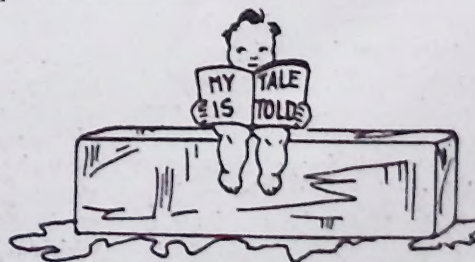
The death of Mrs. Katharine Brady, widow of the late John C. Brady, one of the veteran exhibitors of Toronto, occurred last week. The late Mrs. Brady, who passed away on Wed., Oct. 26th, was in her 76th year. She survived her husband by just three years. The services, which were largely attended, at St. Peter's Church, had a representative showing, includ-

ing many exhibitors, who had known Mr. Brady for many years, prior to his decease.

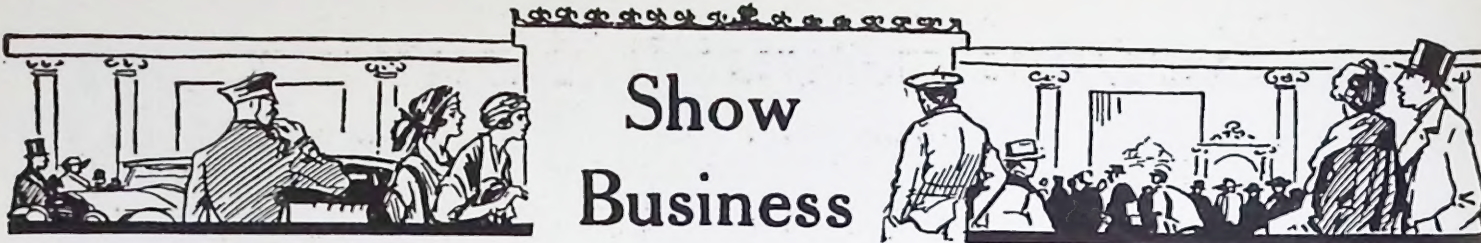
Six sons survive, Stafford J. Brady, William S., Norman P., John J., Albert L., and Cyril P. Interment was in Mount Hope Cemetery. The late Mrs. Brady was widely known for her charitable and philanthropic interests.

HERE are various rumours which associate Mr. Nathanson with a new distributing unit in Canada. The news comes via "The Cinema", London, which reported that Mr. N. L. Nathanson had acquired the B.I.P. franchise and would organize an Independent distributing unit for its service. Mr. Arthur Dent is reported as coming to Canada to finalize the arrangements. An interview with Mr. Nathanson denied the statement in "The Cinema". Meanwhile rumours are coming fast that Mr. Nathanson is to have a Canadian chain of theatres, that he has acquired the Famous-Players Canadian under option, and that he will even assume control of Paramount-Public. When companies cease to pay dividends there is not the same amount of interest in the company by its investors, save that the bond and preferred shareholders, having first claim, are inclined to "sit up and take notice". Incidentally shareholders of Famous-Players Canadian have a keen ear turned toward all rumours.

The Motion Picture Daily, in its issue of Thursday, Nov. 3rd, has a most interesting editorial, "Decentralized Theatre Operation" by Martin Quigley. Mr. Quigley is repeating what our editor said in The Digest and The Spotlight when the "theatre-grabbing" policies were receiving the great consideration from the "theatre-grabbers". Since then a policy of a national monopoly of the Motion Picture Industry, and a world film monopoly, has "gone broke" for lack of sustenance; and this "sustenance" has not only been "Financial Depression", but for the very reason which made Napoleon meet his Waterloo. Power always meets its Waterloo, the same fate, as far back as the Tower of Babel, the latter edifice which men in their might built, so that they might Challenge That Which Has Decreed a Law of Equilibrium and Balance.



Jimmy Walker's Life will appear in serial form in a magazine. It should make colorful reading if unexpurgated and if Jimmy tells the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.



Show Business

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

Negotiations which have been underway for the repairing and the re-opening of the Lyceum Theatre in Port Arthur, Ontario, were given a set-back when the Port Arthur council failed to support a resolution presented by Alderman George Horrigan, October 20, to the effect that the Court of Revision be urged to write down to \$5,000, arrears of taxes on the building amounting at the present time to \$10,000.

Alderman Horrigan said that J. Tocheri, contractor, was prepared to start immediately on the alterations to the Lyceum Theatre Building, spending about \$15,000, if such action were taken by the council.

Alderman Gibson said a visit to the city solicitor had convinced him that the arrears of taxes on the Lyceum Building could not be reduced legally even by the Court of Revision.

Alderman Horrigan, on the contrary, said two solicitors had informed him that the proposed action was legal and these two solicitors were prepared, he said, to go before the council and make statements to that effect.

J. W. Robertson, a member of the Court of Revision, said he had been prepared to support the proposal to reduce the arrears of taxes providing a stipulation were made in the agreement with the contractor that all Port Arthur labor be employed on the job.

Further steps were taken in the Port Arthur, Ont., council, Oct. 27, in an effort to make possible the renovation and re-opening of the Lyceum Theatre. A new arrangement between J. Tocheri, contractor of Fort William, and the council, was adopted, subject to the approval of the city solicitor.

The agreement states that the council will not object to the Court of Revision lowering the amount of arrears of taxes, now standing at about \$10,000, to \$5,000; and that the city will accept its own bonds in payment of this amount. If this is effected, remodelling is to commence at once at a cost of \$15,000; and the theatre is to be operated for at least two years. All workmen to be used on the renovation are to be residents of Port Arthur.

In the past twelve months in Manitoba the moving picture censors passed without change 1,655 pictures out of a total screened of 2,040 viewed. They rejected 83 altogether. It is interesting to note that in the period there were only 21 British pictures, one German and one Russian seen by the board. In 1929 there were forty-three British, twenty-six German, sixteen French, sixteen Ukrainian, and seven Yiddish pictures shown. The board reports, however, there will be a larger number of British films this year. An unofficial observer on the censor board is a tiny hair-wired terrier named Kim. The claim is made on his behalf that he has seen more movies and talkies than any dog on earth. He actually sits up in a chair and takes an interest in them, too. Manitoba and Saskatchewan censors view the pictures jointly in the Parliament Buildings Theatre, Winnipeg.

Allied Amusements Ltd., Winnipeg, announces the appointment of Don F. Gauld, as supervisor, in charge of theatres. The Allied circuit in Winnipeg consists of the Roxy, Rose and Palace Theatres, as well as the new beautiful Uptown Theatre on Academy Road, the largest independently owned circuit in the West. Walter Davis, one of the leaders in theatrical management in America, is manager of the Uptown, with Mrs. Davis as treasurer.

Mr. Gauld started with Allied Amusements some years ago as a house manager. After serving for several years in this capacity, he later was connected with the Universal Chain Theatres, Winnipeg, in a similar position, and has now returned to the Allied Amusement Circuit as supervisor in charge of all theatres.

Arrangements have just been completed by the management of the Osborne and Tivoli Theatre in Winnipeg to bring three more outstanding British films to Winnipeg. The first will be "The Blue Danube", a musical production which has achieved success not only in England but throughout Europe as well. The management has also booked two Aldwych comedies, "A Night Like This", which will star Ralph Lynn and Tom

Walls, and the other play, "Mischief" will star Ralph Lynn alone. "The Blue Danube" will open shortly at the Osborne.

Judgment, awarding \$3,415 and costs to Jacob Miles, owner of the Uptown Theatre, Winnipeg, in an action against his brother, Harry Miles, over payment of a promissory note in connection with the building of the theatre, was delivered by Mr. Justice Adamson, in court of King's Bench, Winnipeg, Oct. 28.

The action was brought to enforce full payment of a promissory note for \$3,700, made out by Harry Miles to his brother in lieu of a cash settlement between them and listing of a lien on the theatre. The note was made out on March 18, payable on demand.

Full payment was demanded by Jacob Miles, but when Harry Miles contended he had the privilege of making the payment in installments, the suit resulted.

Police have warned managers of several Winnipeg moving picture houses that the practice of giving away crockery, or some other gift, to the holders of certain tickets, is against the law and must be stopped. This practice, it is pointed out, amounts to the same thing as holding a "lucky draw" or lottery.

There is nothing to prevent the theatre from giving away a prize with every admission ticket, but once the prizes are limited to certain lucky numbers, the element of chance brings the matter within the scope of a game of chance or gambling.

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BOX 7 — DIGEST

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BOX 11 — DIGEST

A current Canadian newspaper reports that the London press is giving the front page space allotted generally to "gangsters, motion pictures and divorce actions," to the coming U.S. elections

Round About the Studios

M-G-M Buys "Clear All Wires"

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer announces the purchase of motion picture rights to "Clear All Wires", the successful play by Bella and Samuel Spewack now at the Times Square Theatre. Produced and directed by Herman Shumlin, the cast of "Clear All Wires", a newspaper play with a Russian background, includes Thomas Mitchell, Dorothy Tree, Dorothy Mathews and Pauline Achmatova. No cast or director have been assigned as yet to the new property.

Seven Majestics Finished Three More in Preparation

With the completion of "The Unwritten Law" this week, Majestic Pictures Corporation has passed the quarter mark on its proposed schedule of twenty-six production. This group, as previously announced, will include twenty feature productions and six Westerns with Jack Hoxie.

New Shearer Picture

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has purchased "La Tendress", a French novel by Henry Bataille, for Norma Shearer's next picture. Robert Z. Leonard will direct.

"Red Dust"

"Red Dust", M-G-M's Clark Gable-Jean Harlow picture has been boosting box-offices wherever shown, and tops the list in Baltimore at \$18,000, Chicago, \$36,000, also Cincinnati.

"Shanty Town" for Mary Pickford

"Shanty Town" will be Mary Pickford's second production, immediately following "Yes, John", for which Miss Frances Marion, loaned to United Artists from M-G-M, has already written the scenario and to which Salisbury Field has contributed added dialogue. The result is that the vehicle is completely modernized. Miss Marion's services will be available for further work on "Shanty Town" following completion of the first picture, Mr. Levee, of United Artists, announces.

Probably Weldon Heyburn will play the masculine lead in both pictures. Frank Borzage will direct "Yes, John".

Universal to Produce Tom Mix Picture

So successful have been the first series of six Tom Mix pictures made and released the current year by Universal that during the new season Universal will produce seven more. "Oh Promise Me", adapted from the Peter B. Kyne magazine story and the first of the new series, is still in production, being delayed somewhat by Mix's recent accident. The cast also includes Ruth Hall, Mix's leading lady, William Farnum, George Hackathorne, William Steele, Fred Burns and Clarence Wilson.

Russ Columbo to Star In Vitaphone Short

Russ Columbo, radio's popular baritone, has been signed by Sam Sax, chief of production at the Vitaphone studio in Brooklyn, to star in a 2-reel Vitaphone film. The short, which will go into production shortly, will feature many specialty artists in addition to radio's "Romeo of Song".

Armand Denis to Direct New Buck Film

Frank Buck, famous for his RKO Radio film "Bring 'Em Back Alive", yesterday met his new director, Armand Denis, co-producer of the Balinese picture, "Goonie Goonie" now playing at the RKO Radio Cameo Theatre.

Buck and Denis immediately set to work writing the script for the sequel to "Bring 'Em Back Alive" which will be called "Wild Cargo". This production will be made by the Van Buren Corporation. The expedition leaves about January 1st.

4 New M-G-M Films for November Release

Four new films are scheduled for release during the month of November by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. These include "The Mask of Fu Manchu"; "Prosperity", a new Marie Dressler-Polly Moran comedy; an untitled William Haines picture; and Wallace Beery's new starring vehicle, "Flesh".

New Hal Roach Comedy

"Bring 'Em Back a Wife." That's what the Taxi Boys will attempt to do in their latest Hal Roach comedy. Ben Blue and Billy Gilbert have been assigned the leading roles.

Ruth Chatterton Film to Be "Frisco Jenny"

The title of "Common Ground", First National's picture starring Ruth Chatterton which is now in production on the West Coast, has been changed to "Frisco Jenny".

Opening as a roadshow in Sydney, Australia, "Grand Hotel", met the same enthusiastic reception that greeted it throughout the United States and in London.

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Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — Douglas Fairbanks in "Mr. Robinson Crusoe", a United Artists picture.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — "Love is a Racket", a Warner Bros. First National picture, with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Ann Dvorak and Francis Dee.

IMPERIAL—Manager H. V. Knevels — "The Big Broadcast", a Paramount picture, with a big line-up of radio stars, Bing Crosby, Kate Smith, Burns and Allen, Boswell Sisters, Mills Brothers, etc.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — Second week for "Jack's The Boy", the Jack Hulbert - Ciceley Courtneidge comedy, produced by Gaumont-Gainsborough.

TIVOLI—Manager M. J. Doyle — R.K.O.'s radio mystery drama, "The Phantom of Crestwood", with Ricardo Cortez and Karen Morley. Added attraction, "They Call It Fate", Warner Bros. picture with Loretta Young and George Brent.

Northern Electric Sound recorded the address of the Finance Minister, the Hon. R. N. Rhodes on Associated Screen Trailer, used for Dominion Government Loan

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Comedian - and

**CICELY
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[Jack Hulbert's Wife]

in



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Oh Boy!



Jack's -the Boy

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